

# CONSERVATION

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, July 10, 1975

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

### LONG AGO

(From the 1909 Annual Report  
of the Town of Duxbury.)  
Report of the Duxbury Con-  
servation Committee.

The following report is sub-  
mitted with the hope of im-  
pressing upon the voters of  
Duxbury the importance of pro-  
tecting or conserving the Town's  
present resources and developing  
its usefulness and attractiveness.

In a community of Duxbury's  
size, with its diversity of in-  
terests, its large area in farms  
and woodlands, its fishing in-  
terests, and its increasing popu-  
larity as a home for the driving  
and autoing summer residents,  
the question of good roads must  
call for first consideration. The  
committee recommends that cer-  
tain main roads (those connecting  
the separate villages one with  
another, and those leading to  
railroad stations, post offices, and

schools,) receive yearly the  
greatest amount of attention. This  
is outlined more particularly in  
the appended report of Franklin  
Brett, the landscape architect,  
who was employed jointly by the  
Town and the Duxbury Rural  
Society.

Besides building good roads,  
every means should be employed  
to protect them and keep them in  
first-class condition. The rapid  
passing of automobiles works  
much damage at all seasons of the  
year, but so does the slower  
passage of heavy carts with  
narrow tires on their wheels. Dry,  
unshaded roads are as quickly in  
need of repair as wet, poorly  
drained ones. All roads should be  
properly drained to begin with,  
but they should also be well  
shaded to prevent undue drying  
in hot weather. Roadside trees as  
an asset in adding to the beauty of  
a locality are becoming ap-  
preciated, but their dollar-and-  
cent value as a road-preservative  
is not so generally recognized.  
For this reason the committee  
recommends an appropriation for  
the purchase of shade trees along  
roadsides, their suitable marking  
as Town property, and their  
protection from vandalism. It also  
urges greater activity in the  
planting of trees along shadeless  
roads; and approves of the re-  
commendation of the Tree War-  
den with reference to town care of  
roadside trees growing within the  
limits of private property.

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The town has already acquired,  
or attempted to acquire, a  
number of town landings along  
the water-front. The Committee  
strongly urges the establishing of  
a clear title to all in dispute, the  
improvement of their facilities for  
bathing and the landing of boats,  
and the planting of trees and  
shrubs in their vicinity when  
feasible. The Committee also  
urges the acquiring of a public  
landing place which will give easy  
access to the government-dred-  
ged channel, Powder Point  
Bridge being the only spot not  
controlled by private parties  
where boats can now land at low  
tide. The need of such a landing  
will be felt more and more as time  
passes, and action should be  
taken at once.

The Committee considers it ad-  
visable that the grounds about all  
public buildings be made as  
attractive as possible, and kept in  
good order. It recommends in this  
connection an appropriation of  
\$500 to cover the expense of  
grading the grounds about the  
Town Hall and laying out a good  
road from Tremont St. around the  
Hall, making an oval which would  
pass the Academy and horse-  
sheds, encircle the Church and  
Hall, and which might also be  
used as a running track for the  
Academy students in their ath-  
letics.

Among Duxbury's most val-  
uable assets is the place it holds  
in Massachusetts' Colonial his-  
tory. All places of historical  
interest should be identified,  
suitably marked, and carefully  
preserved, and access to all such  
sites and relics made as easy and  
attractive as possible. Such a step  
would be not only a means of  
education to the townspeople, but  
also would attract many visitors  
from other parts of the country.

The Committee strongly urges  
the securing by the town in the  
near future of lands for a public  
playground and waterside park,  
where all games and water sports  
can be enjoyed by the young  
people without trespassing upon  
private rights.

The woodland character of the  
drives about town attracts almost  
as strongly as does the bay, the  
summer visitors to Duxbury, and  
this should be preserved wher-  
ever possible by the purchase of  
narrow strips of woodland bor-  
dering the highways. In this con-  
nection the Committee especially  
recommends the purchase of a  
strip, say 100 feet wide, on each  
side of Depot St. between  
Tremont and Surplus streets, and

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on the east side of Tremont St. opposite the Town Hall and Mayflower Cemetery. This approach to the Town Hall through Depot St. affords one of the most picturesque views about town and should the woods on either side be cut down it would be destroyed. Also the Committee recommends that the town shall instruct the selectmen to buy all woodland or waste land sold for taxes if the price is in their judgement reasonable.

The feeling seems to be generally spreading that an alien and irresponsible element is rapidly injuring the fisheries to the detriment of the rights and interests of the Duxbury fishermen. The Committee recommends that some decisive action be taken and regulation made to protect the fishing and shellfish industries for the townspeople.

With this question comes up the greater problem of the necessary disposal of sewage into the bay. The present methods of allowing soil-pipes to empty over bathing beaches and clam flats is a constant menace to the health of the community.

The town has taken one step in the right direction in purchase of a site just off Mayflower St. for a public dump. But other sites should be secured, a sum should be appropriated for their purchase, improvement and care, and rules made and enforced for their use, with penalties for their non-use. Many of the colonies of gypsy and brown-tail moths in our woodlands can be traced to rubbish dumped along the woods roads by careless or selfish persons, while the old mattresses, cans and so forth remain an eyesore for years.

Agitation should be started for an improved train service. Within the town much should be done to improve the means of transportation from the stations to the villages. While these are private enterprises so much of the public comfort and convenience depend upon them that they might well

be considered as public utilities.

The committee recommends that precautions be taken to protect empty houses against depredations.

The committee recommends that notices of special town meetings be sent by postal card to each voter in addition to the ordinary posting of the warrant.

With the decrease of forest fires the committee believes more conservative lumbering can be practiced by the owners of woodland and that some reforestation is practicable.

The committee has considered but taken no action on other conservation questions including certain broad ones involving the welfare of the people.

Every effort at fellowship and good feeling between townspeople and summer visitors should be encouraged that they may join in working together for the public good. Any plan of extensive improvement must be undertaken only after thoughtful discussion. With this object the conservation committee presents for the consideration of the voters of Duxbury its more or less tentative report.

The report of Brett, the landscape architect, follows, and is generally approved by the committee, with the exception of the sentence in italics, relative to appropriations for road work, as they are convinced that in Duxbury the present method is better than the one proposed.

Charles Allen  
Frederick Knapp  
John May, M.D.